



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO **MANAGER'S REPORT**

DATED ISSUED: November 6, 2002 REPORT NO. 02-258

ATTENTION: Natural Resources and Culture Committee
Agenda of November 13, 2002

SUBJECT: Study Results Regarding Potential Impact on Grunion Spawning Resulting
from Beach Maintenance Operations

REFERENCE: Manager's Report No. 02-066, dated March 27, 2002

SUMMARY

Issue – Should the Committee accept the Manager's Report and the attached scientific study results as submitted by Ms. Karen Martin, Ph.D., Pepperdine University?

Manager's Recommendation – Accept the Manager's Report and study results.

Other Recommendations – None

Fiscal Impact – None

BACKGROUND

At the April 3, 2002 NR&C Committee meeting, the Committee directed staff to continue its cooperative efforts with Project Pacific and the project researcher, Ms. Karen Martin, Ph.D., supporting her research study assessing the potential impact of the City's beach grooming operations on grunion spawning. The study was funded by grants secured by Project Pacific and included a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation "Challenge Grant" of \$18,698, and a Rapid Response Sea Grant of \$9,995.

DISCUSSION

The Park and Recreation Department wishes to publicly acknowledge and thank Project Pacific for their leadership throughout this project. Additionally, staff is grateful to individuals who participated in the study as trained volunteer observers, or "Grunion Greeters." These volunteers generously contributed their time (late nights in particular) and energy in monitoring grunion runs and reporting spawning locations to Dr. Martin's team throughout our four urbanized beaches: Ocean Beach, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach and La Jolla Shores.

Dr. Martin's research team began their study in March of 2002. Data on grunion counts, spawning areas on respective beaches, and other conditions was collected from ten (10) grunion runs during the period of March 1 to July 13, 2002. The study results (attached) will be reviewed verbally by Dr. Martin and presented as part of this report. Staff agrees with the scientific team's four recommendations as listed in their report, page 3. The City will seek assistance from Project Pacific and Dr. Martin with regard to the fourth recommendation which includes regular monitoring of grunion spawning runs, eggs located on the beach and grooming practices throughout the spawning season.

ALTERNATIVE

1. Accept the Manager's Report and study results with changes to recommendations regarding beach grooming practices.
2. Do not accept the Manager's Report and study results.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Oppenheim
Park and Recreation Director

Approved: Bruce Herring
Deputy City Manager

OPPENHEIM/TM

Note: The attachment is not available in electronic format. A copy is available for review in the Office of the City Clerk.

Attachment: 1 – Beach Grooming and Grunion in San Diego

